better position to reply. Otherwise, the matter is *sub judice*. But I thought I should not use the word *'sub judice'* so that I can give whatever information is available on the basis of the facts.

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Sir, a number of contractual workers were engaged in sweeping and cleaning jobs in the ONGC offices such as Exploration Business Group Office, Regional Office and other offices in West Bengal and the North-Eastern Region. I would like to know whether the contractors have licences as per Chapter IV of C.L. (R & A) Act, 1970.

Sir, another point that I want to submit is that while the ONGC management has regularised all contractual workers who worked in the prohibitory jobs such as sweeping, cleaning, security, etc. as per the court order in Delhi, Goa, Maharashtra but the same has not been done in West Bengal and the North-Eastern Region. What are the reasons for the same?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the facts of the case are that the ONGC had given a contract to a firm M/s. Mondal Enterprises. Now, they engaged nine workers to clean the ONGC Offices and that was given on a contract basis. Under the Notification of 1976, this type of work is prohibited. But, subsequently, the ONGC and some other public sector undertakings were given permission to do and get such things done by engaging a firm. So, technically, the ONGC —a public sector undertaking —has thought that it is a contractual obligation and when that contractual obligation was placed before the Tribunal, the Tribunal did not agree with it. So, the ONGC filed a writ petition before the High Court of Calcutta. There was a preliminary hearing. The High Court of Calcutta heard both the sides and then the High Court has given a stay. I must also say, as an additional information, that there are several such cases going on in different High Courts and now the Supreme Court is seized of the matter of contractual labour. The Supreme Court also, when the cases were referred to them, have broadened the term 'full-fledged wage.' The Supreme Court is discussing that matter. In fact, so far as the specific question is concerned, the High Court of Calcutta heard both the sides and given a stay.

Network Centres on Embryo Transfer

*386. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the MINISTER of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the list of Network Centres on Embryo Transfer under ICAR established during 8th and 9th Plan periods alongwith date of their commission, location, total outlay, allocation and implementation status;

(b) whether it is a fact that North Eastern Region was excluded from such networking during the 8th Plan and the proposal for a network centre during 9th Plan at Assam Agricultural University, Khanapara, is yet to materialise;

(c) if so, the reason for such exclusion and delay; and

(d) whether Government have confirmed the proposed network centre at Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Khanapara, during 1999-2000 ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of Rajya Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a)

Centre & Location	**Establi-shed on**	**Total outlay (Rs. in lakhs)**	**Allocation (Rs. in lakhs)**	**Implementation status (calves born through ETT)**
NIANP, Bangalore	21-3-97	Rs. 240.00	30.00	Basic Research
PAU, Ludhiana	1-1-97	(ICAR	22.50	45
GAU, Anand	1-2-95	share)	22.50	20
KAU, Mannuthy	25-5-95		22.50	20
KKV, Mumbai	6-5-96		22.50	20
PKV Akola	3-10-95		22.50	24
HPKVV, Palampur	1-11-94		22.50	10
RAU, Bikaner	1-4-95		22.50	30
IGKVV, Durg	1-4-95		22.50	25
TNVASU, Madras	7-11-94		22.50	25
Coordinating Unit ICAR Hqrs.	20-10-94		7.50	Coordination

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The EFC of 8th Plan had not considered AAU, Khanarapa as a centre of Network as an ICAR funded ad-hoc scheme on improving the reproductive efficiency and productivity in large animals was already in operation with the financial outlay of Rs. 6.48 lakhs at AAU, Khanapara, Guwahati (Assam).

(d) No, Sir.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Embryo Transfer Technology is a very recent technology required for production of superior

animals. It is very surprising to hear the argument on which the Ministry is trying to rely upon. It seems to me that another *ad-hoc* scheme on improving the reproductive efficiency and productivity in large animals is already in operation in Assam Agricultural University. The sanction of a Network Centre on Embryo Transfer Technology was not considered. It is very unfortunate. I have seen the list. This is a national programme for the upgradation of our animals. Since 1994, the programme is under operation and a proposal from the Assam Agricultural University was submitted to the ICAR. Not only Assam and other North-Eastern States but also even West Bengal was neglected and much emphasis has not been given for the introduction of this technology. I would now request the hon. Minister to give a specific assurance that an Embryo Transfer Technology Programme would be sanctioned within this financial year to the North-Eastern Region in the Assam Agricultural University.

श्री सुंदर लाल पटवा : भ्रूण स्थानांतरण प्रौद्योगिकी के लिए कुल मिलाकर 2 करोड़ 40 लाख का बजट आवंटन है और इसी आवंटन से प्रयास कर के 10 केन्द्रों की शुरूआत की गई है। मैं माननीय सदस्य से सहमत हूं कि उस में असम के लिए किसी केन्द्र का प्रावधान नहीं है, इस पर विचार करने का प्रयास करेंगे। परंतु माननीय सदस्य से मेरी प्रार्थना है कि अभी यह भ्रूण स्थानांतरण की प्रौद्योगिकी प्रारंभिक अवस्था में है। जहां-जहां ये केन्द्र स्थापित हुए हैं, वहां भी बिल्कुल प्रारंभिक स्थिति में हैं। परंतु जहां तक असम का सवाल है जब भी नए केन्द्रों की स्थापना होगी, उस पर निश्चित रूप से विचार किया जाएगा।

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this network programme would be sanctioned within this current financial year.

Then, Sir, in recent times, there has been very little allocation to agricultural research and education. As we are going in for globalisation, we need to have more research in order to increase productivity in the agricultural Sector. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the percentage of allocation from the Ministry for agricultural research and education in the entire country.

श्री सुंदर लाल पटवा : सभापति महोदय, मिनिस्ट्री के परसेंटेज के बारे में बताना इस समय मेरे लिए संभव नहीं है। अगर माननीय सदस्य मुझे सूचना दें तो मैं उन्हें अवगत करा दूंगा। मैंने पहले ही बताया है कि 2 करोड़ 40 लाख रुपए का कुल आवंटन इसके लिए हुआ है। इस वर्ष में होगा कि नहीं, यह मैं नहीं कह सकता। अगर बढ़कर आवंटन मिला और नए केन्द्र खुले तो इसके लिए जरूर प्रयास किया जाएगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Question No. 387.